

Message Text

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16

ACTION SS-30

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FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4483

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T CAIRO 3710

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US UR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS AND US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING MY TALK WITH HIM LAST NIGHT, FAHMY DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON WHAT HE CALLED SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT IMPROVING US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. SOVIETS, HE CHARGED, ARE DISPLEASED WITH RESUMPTION OF DIRECT HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS. IT DISPLACES THEM AS PRINCIPAL CONDUIT FOR EGYPTIAN VIEWS TO BE PASSED TO US. SOVIETS HERE ONLY DISCREETLY HINT THEIR DISPLEASURE, BUT ARAB COLLEAGUES AT SUMMIT HAD TOLD HIM ELSEWHERE THEY ARE EXPRESSING THEMSELVES MORE STRONGLY ON THE SUBJECT. FAHMY EMPHASIZED HIS OWN ROLE IN URGING CLOSER US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, ADDING PRESIDENT SADAT IS EQUALLY DESIROUS OF HAVING THIS DEVELOP.

2. SIMILAR COMMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO US BY OTHERS. FEW DAYS AGO, FOR EXAMPLE, KNOWLEDGEABLE SAUDI AMBASSADOR FUAD NAZIR EXPOUNDED SAME POINT. HE ADDED THAT FAHMY HIMSELF HAS LONG BEEN IN SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S BAD GRACES AS BEING TOO "PRO-AMERICAN." HE QUOTED VINOGRADOV AS HAVING SAID LESS THAN A YEAR AGO THAT SOVIETS WOULD NEVER PERMIT FAHMY BECOME FOREIGN MINISTER. FAHMY WELL AWARE OF SOVIET ENMITY TOWARDS HIM. SHORTLY AFTER BEING NAMED FOREIGN MINISTER, HE HAD CALLED IN SOVIET
SECRET

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AMBASSADOR AND POINTEDLY TAXED HIM ON HIS EARLIER REMARK. VINOGRADOV, NAZIR CLAIMS, PROFUSELY APOLOGIZED AND ASKED FOR OPPORTUNITY BE FIRST FOREIGN AMBASSADOR GIVE DINNER FOR FAHMY. THIS TOOK PLACE NOVEMBER 16

(CAIRO 3560). (IN HIS TALKS WITH ME, VINOGRADOV HAS BEEN CORRECT ABOUT FAHMY, BUT CLEARLY PREFERS TO DEAL THROUGH OTHERS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.)

3. SOVIETS HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT FAHMY'S FIRST ACTION ON BECOMING FOREIGN MINISTER WAS TO BRING IN LARGE NUMBER NEW SENIOR STAFF AND PERSONAL AIDES, ALL OF WHOM SOVIETS REGARD AS FRIENDLY TO US.
EILTS

SECRET

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